



1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

MINUTES OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1. The State Conservation Commission meeting was called to order by Rod Vorhees, Chairman and Area V Commissioner, at 2:05 p.m., Sunday, November 22, 2015, at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, Wichita, KS.

2. **ATTENDANCE:**

Elected Commissioners:

Ted Nighswonger, Area I Commissioner
Andy Larson, Area II Commissioner
Brad Shogren, Area III Commissioner
John Wunder, Area IV Commissioner
Rod Vorhees, Area V Commissioner

Ex-Officio & Appointed Members:

Eric Banks, State Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), K-State Research and Extension
Peter Tomlinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Extension Specialist for Environmental Quality Agronomy Department, Kansas State University (KSU)
Terry Medley, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Susan Metzger, Interim Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director
Don Jones, Water Quality Program Manager
Steve Frost, Water Conservation Programs Manager
Megan Green, Conservation District Program Coordinator
Katie Burke, Conservation District Program Coordinator
Cindy Woofter, Administrative Specialist

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Guests:

Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW)

Larry Biles, State Forester, Kansas Forest Service

Eric Wiles, Montgomery County Supervisor

Doug Blex, Montgomery County Supervisor

3. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- a. No additions or corrections were made to the agenda.

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the agenda as presented or amended. The motion was seconded by Peter Tomlinson. Motion carried.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve the September 17, 2015, minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

5. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

- a. Susan Metzger explained the situation about the Executive Director opening due to Greg Foley resigning, that advertising was done through several venues until the first week of November, and that the search committee has met and the first round of interviews have been held.

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the Executive Director applicants. Time to adjourn was 2:10 p.m. Time to reconvene was 2:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried. At 2:10 p.m. the Commissioners and Susan Metzger went into Executive Session. Time reconvened was 2:30 p.m.

6. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

- a. Herb Graves – Herb expressed his appreciation for Scott Carlson’s initiative in the third party Conservation Easement Program for Watershed Districts.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- a. Overview of the FY 2016 first quarter financial report – Frost (See Attachment A)
 - i. There was a discussion on how to word the financial report approval during meetings.

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ii. Until proper wording has been established, financial reports should just be reviewed and not approved. Scott will review the statutes and report to the Commissioners at the next meeting.

iii. Budget - finances are setting very well.

The FY 2016 first quarter financial report was reviewed.

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Eric Wiles, Montgomery County Supervisor, was introduced

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Review KACD Convention roles and responsibilities for commissioners and staff – Carlson

i. Scott explained duties throughout the convention and informed the Board that DOC staff would be there as support in all meetings. He also reviewed presentations for both dinners.

b. Update on development of a Conservation Easement Program authorized by passage of HB 2061 that allows the DOC to be third party easement holders for watershed districts – Metzger, Carlson

i. The Conservation Easement Program HB 2061 will be a good addition for Districts. Susan mentioned that completion of the draft program is nearing and it is just a matter of finalizing details. Scott has met with Hakim Saadi and Herb Graves, and another meeting will be held to review legal documents with the SAKW Board.

c. Review prior year FY 2013 and FY 2014 cost-share cancellation policy recommendations - Jones

i. Extend all FY 2013 LWM encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS) until June 1, 2016.

A motion was made by Andy Larson to extend all FY 2013 LWM encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS) until June 1, 2016. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

ii. Extend all FY 2014 encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program and Water Resources cost-share program until June 1, 2016, subject to the encumbered funds being available.

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A motion was made by Brad Shogren to extend all FY 2014 encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program and Water Resources cost-share program until June 1, 2016, subject to the encumbered funds being available. John Wunder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Review the 2016 Spring Workshop dates and location – Carlson

- i. Area I – March 9, American Legion Hall, Grainfield
Area II – March 10, KSU Experiment Station, Garden City
Area III - March 11, NRCS Conference Center, Salina
Area IV - March 3, KDA Conference Room, Manhattan
Area V - March 4, Old Iron Club, Fredonia

If continuing to ask Supervisors attend the SCC meetings, it was discussed that there needs to be a portion of the meetings set aside just for the Supervisors. This possibility is tentative due to the possibility of reducing/combining partnership meetings.

- ii. Discuss combining the SCC Spring Workshops with the NRCS All Personnel meetings. Brad asked if there are any burning issues with the necessity to have SCC meetings and Scott explained the reasons.
 - iii. Possibility of cutting down to just East and West meetings
 - iv. Possibility of having all District Managers and Supervisors attend the all personnel NRCS meeting and have breakout sessions specifically just for them.
 - v. Rod had a Supervisor ask about the possibility of leadership training for Supervisors
 - vi. Only 12% of Supervisors attend Spring and Fall meetings. Brad suggested a short video that can be shown at board meetings, and possibly even webinars for the Supervisors to participate in.
- #### b. Overview of the FY 2017 Division of Conservation budget (See Attachment B) and FY 2018 Zero Based Budget – Carlson/Frost
- i. KDA has volunteered to participate in the Zero Based Budget trial for FY 2018
 - ii. This is a very methodical process – each program is analyzed for continued funding
- #### c. Review 2016 Legislative Priorities for the KDA – Metzger (See Attachment C)
- i. KDA will attempt to codify the CREP program into statute. Only provisos have been used in the past for authorization.

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- d. Authorize Commissioner(s) and Staff to attend NACD convention - Carlson

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve John Wunder, Andy Larson, and two DOC staff (to be later determined) to attend the 2016 NACD Annual Meeting in Reno, NV, January 30 through February 3, 2016. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

- e. Scott reported on attendance at the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, September 27-30, 2015.
 - i. Greg Foley and Scott Carlson attended – there was a business session and a session for field staff
 - ii. Very beneficial meeting – wealth of knowledge provided
 - iii. Topics included technical training, implementing RCPP, Local Work Groups, Federal government shutdown, State associations' influence
 - iv. Center for Behavioral and Experimental Agri-Environmental Research (CBEAR) – very fascinating presentation – Scott will present this to KACD – would be great to bring in to Conservation Districts and NRCS

Break – 4:08 p.m. – 4:18 p.m.

- f. Review KACD resolutions – Carlson
 - i. DOC budget resolution has been improved upon. Steve will explain to KACD that a column has been added so people can have more comparisons. Don explained the difference in contributions for all other funds, as well as the hiring of three new conservation technician employees (See Attachment D).
 - ii. KACD Support for Governor's Water Vision – There will be a resolution presented at the KACD meeting supporting the Governor's Water Vision efforts. If we are going to be a part of it (The Vision) we should support it. This resolution should also be discussed at area meetings (See Attachment E)

11. REPORTS:

- a. Agency Reports:
 - i. NRCS – Eric Banks (See Attachment F)
 - ii. K-State Agronomy – Peter Tomlinson - Attended a meeting in Minneapolis, MN. He said grad students made presentations.
 - iii. KDA – Terry Medley – Terry reported that he is working with the Silver Jackets on the emergency action on dams. Two dam safety engineers are being advertised

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in hopes of having these positions filled at the first of the new year. HUD applications have been submitted for Wildcat Creek. A webinar will be available on proposed rules and regulations.

- iv. KCARE – Dan Devlin – Dan reported that K-State hosted a National Scientist Workshop, and he is working with the City of Wichita develop a BMP program.
 - v. Larry Biles – Kansas Forest Service – Larry informed all of the hiring of two District Foresters and that the RCPP is attainable only due to partnerships working together.
- b. Staff Reports:
- i. Megan Green, DOC – Megan reported that 81% of Conservation District’s cost-share reviews are complete. Since July 1, 2015, there have been five new District Managers hired on. Megan has also attended some board meetings.
 - ii. Katie Burke – DOC – Katie reported that Streambank projects take up half of her job and gave an update on projects. She will be conducting Conservation District reviews solo in a few weeks.
 - iii. Hakim Saadi – DOC – per Scott Carlson. There are 10 out of 14 contracts that have been returned in the watershed program.
 - iv. Cindy Woofter, DOC – Cindy expressed that she appreciates the opportunity to work for the DOC, which has been an easy transition. Cindy has been working with Hakim on watershed district work, CSIMS, prepping for KACD, and land mining reclamation license renewals requests, just to name a few.
 - v. Don Jones – DOC – Don reported that the Neosho RCPP Memorandum of Agreement is going through the legal department and should roll out in January.
 - vi. Scott Carlson – DOC – Scott talked about the possibility of combining partnership meetings. He has been in discussion with the KDA IT department in regards to Megan’s idea of creating a video on CSIMS training. The Kansas Forest Service and DOC initiative – they are working on an in-house District Forester to manage riparian plantings.
- c. Commissioner reports:
- i. Area I – Ted Nighswonger – Ted reported that he has found weaknesses in conservation practices due to the rain and commented on Mother Nature presenting a tornado one day and a winter blizzard the next.
 - ii. Area II – Andy Larson – Andy reported that the fire danger is low, there are terrace breaks to repair, and gave an update on fall harvest.

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- iii. Area III – Brad Shogren – Brad reported that he attended the Governor’s Water Conference. He mentioned that there were many officials there that were willing to sit down and discuss concerns with people. He also attended a local WRAPS meeting (Katie Burke and Terry Medley also attended). In addition, Brad commented on how the rural community came together when his son’s house caught on fire, and how it is crucial to figure out what is important in life and focus on that.
- iv. Area IV – John Wunder – John expressed his appreciation to the DOC staff for all the help at the KACD Annual Convention, and especially to Susan Metzger, for picking up the extra duties as Interim Executive Director. John reported that he attended the Governor’s Water Conference; this was his 3rd conference. He also gave area reports at the Spring and Fall workshops promoting the importance of networking, and that it is very important to recharge and look at the bigger picture.
- v. Area V – Rod Vorhees – Rod reported that they are working hard on building better communication with the fire department and that the rural communities work well together.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, KS.

A motion was made by Andy Larson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.



Susan Metzger
Interim Executive Director

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2016 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
 JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

PROGRAM/FUND	INDEX	Appropriation/ Resources Received	Beginning Balance	Prior Fiscal Year Encumbrances	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Current Fiscal Year Funds Committed	UNCOMMITTED BALANCE
1. STATE GENERAL FUND - 1000								
a. Office Operations	0053	480,347.00	0.00	0.00	133,525.55	27.8%	0.00	346,821.45
TOTAL - STATE GENERAL FUND		\$480,347.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$133,525.55	27.8%	\$0.00	\$346,821.45
2. STATE WATER PLAN FUND - 1800								
a. Water Resources Cost-Share								
(1) Office Operations-OOE		124,365.53	5,128.26	487.10	46,357.38	35.8%	9,355.76	73,293.55
(2) Proorammina Services-CSIMS		25,000.00	4,822.50	4,822.50	0.00	0.0%	0.00	25,000.00
(3) CSIMS WR Cost-Share Assistance		1,790,504.47	963,127.87	788,326.47	302,866.52	11.0%	0.00	1,662,439.35
(4) Engineering/Professional Services		8,419.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	8,419.00
(5) Unallocated Funds		0.00	156,456.37	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	156,456.37
TOTAL - Water Resources Cost-Share					412,399.90		9,355.76	1,925,608.21
b. Non Point Source Pollution Control								
(1) Office Operations-OOE		1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	1,500.00
(2) Proorammina Services - CSIMS		25,000.00	4,822.50	4,822.50	0.00	0.0%	0.00	25,000.00
(3) Conservation Technicians		175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	51,845.98	123,154.02
(4) Trainina & Workshop No-Till Reaistraton		22,500.00	9,275.00	9,275.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	22,500.00
(5) Soil Health I&E		45,000.00	0.00	0.00	12,905.04	28.7%	0.00	32,094.96
(6) CSIMS NPS Cost-Share Assistance		1,589,350.00	833,264.74	658,630.95	392,141.84	16.2%	0.00	1,371,841.95
(7) Enaineerina/Professional Services		0.00	128,398.22	92,743.99	35,654.23	27.8%	0.00	0.00
(8) Unallocated Funds		0.00	311,654.54	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	311,654.54
TOTAL - Non Point Source Pollution Control					1,935,094.76	92.1%	51,845.98	1,887,743.77
c. Aid to Conservation Districts	210	2,092,637.00	8,711.17	0.00	1,935,094.76	92.1%	0.00	166,253.41
TOTAL	220	1,092,370.00	1,287,415.63	768,124.49	540,701.11	14.0%	21,449.00	1,887,743.77
d. CREP/WTAP								
(1) Office Ooerations - OOE		0.00	95,347.00	0.00	25,688.57	26.9%	0.00	69,658.43
(2) CSIMS CREP Cost-Share Assistance		0.00	127,128.20	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	127,128.20
(3) WTAP Projects		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00
(4) Unallocated Funds		446,040.00	46,550.63	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	492,590.63
TOTAL - CREP/WTAP			269,025.83	0.00	\$1,885.57	3.6%	0.00	689,377.26
e. Watershed Dam Construction								
(1) Watershed Dam		576,434.00	695,033.00	598,806.52	83,301.00	6.6%	0.00	589,359.48
TOTAL - Watershed Dam Construction					83,301.00	6.6%	0.00	589,359.48
f. KS Water Quality Buffer Initiative								
(1) CSIMS Buffer Cost-Share Assistance		249,792.00	58,736.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	308,528.00
TOTAL - KS Water Quality Buffer Initiative			58,736.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	308,528.00
la. Riparian and Wetland Protection								
(1) Office Operations - OOE		1,000.00	0.00	0.00	712.73	71.3%	0.00	287.27
(2) CSIMS RW Cost-Share Assistance		40,000.00	32,480.80	0.00	32,480.80	44.8%	0.00	40,000.00
(3) EnQineering/Professional Services		104,732.06	372,390.20	358,101.26	5,670.00	1.2%	0.00	113,351.00
(4) Unallocated Funds		6,918.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	6,918.94
TOTAL - Riparian and Wetland Protection			404,871.00	358,101.26	38,863.53	7.0%	0.00	160,557.21
h. Streambank Stabilization								
(1) Office Operations - OOE		0.00	216.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	216.00
(2) Glacial Hills RC&D - Streambank Stabilization		0.00	661,404.65	661,404.65	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00
(3) Enaineerina Services - TWI - Delaware River		0.00	88,295.35	48,833.20	39,462.15	44.7%	0.00	0.00
TOTAL - Streambank Stabilization			749,716.00	710,237.85	39,462.15	5.3%	0.00	216.00
i. akafVI{ater\$IIrPIYJ estQi'JltioJ1	175	58,156.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.0%	0.00	258,156.00
TOTAL STATE WATER PLAN FUND		\$7,582,349.00	\$6,897,345.54	\$4,590,533.10	\$2,912,335.02	20.1%	\$61,201.74	\$5,985,801.10

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2016 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

	<i>FEE FUND PROGRAMS</i>	<i>Budget Unit</i>	Beginning Balance	Resources Received	Prior Fiscal Year Encumbrances	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Current Fiscal Year Funds Committed	UNCOMMITTED BALANCE	
1.	AG LIME • 2118	1200	56,171.00	27,572.00	0.00	7,632.00	9.1%	0.00	76,111.00	
2.	CONSERVATION TECHNICIANS - 2517									
	a. KDWP&T		82,500.00	0.00	0.00	53,864.00	65.3%	23,977.00	4,659.00	
	b. KDHE		272,196.00	0.00	0.00	50,092.00	18.4%	11,318.00	210,786.00	
	CONSERVATION TECHNICIANS - TOTAL	2510	354,696.00	0.00	0.00	103,956.00	29.3%	35,295.00	215,445.00	
3.	LAND RECLAMATION FEE FUND - 2542	2090	72,944.00	467.00	51,400.00	32,236.00	43.9%	0.00	(10,225.00)	
4.	KDHE/EPA-FEDERAL INDIRECT FUNDS - 3889		(ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED TO KDHE)							REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST
	a. KDHE/Buffer Indirect Funds		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	
	b. KDHE/NPS Indirect Funds		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	
	KDHE-INDIRECT FUNDS - TOTAL	3880	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	
5.	NRCS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS - 3917		(ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REQUESTED FROM NRCS)							REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST
	a. NRCS/NPS Conservation Tech	3825	67,484.00	88,783.00	0.00	25,643.00	16.4%	175,974.00	(45,350.00)	
			Beginning Balance	Resources Received	Prior Fiscal Year Encumbrances	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Current Fiscal Year Funds Committed	UNCOMMITTED BALANCE	
	FEE FUNDS GRAND TOTAL		\$551,295.00	\$116,822.00	\$51,400.00	\$169,467.00	25.4%	\$211,269.00	\$235,981.00	

1. HOSPITALITY FUNDS USED - 1000	0054 IPaid under KDA Budget	\$ 550.00
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Division of Conservation Budget Request

	Actual FY 2015	*Adjusted FY 2016	*Adjusted FY 2017
STATE GENERAL FUNDS			
1000 Administrative Operations	\$484,447	\$480,347	\$500,800
STATE WATER PLAN SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
1220 Aid to Conservation Districts	\$2,087,382	\$2,101,348	\$2,092,637
1205 Water Resources	\$2,182,818	\$2,105,228	\$1,948,289
1275 Water Supply Restoration	\$258,156	\$258,156	\$258,156
1210 Non-Point Source Pollution	\$1,914,283	\$2,172,004	\$1,858,350
1240 Watershed Dam Construction	\$540,215	\$619,464	\$576,434
1260 Riparian and Wetland Protection	\$145,020	\$161,270	\$152,651
1250 Water Quality Buffer Initiative	\$231,956	\$308,528	\$249,792
1225 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program & WTAP	\$285,493	\$715,066	\$446,040
1290 Streambank Stabilization	\$749,784	\$216	\$0
Sub - State Water Plan Special Revenue Funds	\$8,395,107	\$8,441,280	\$7,582,349
FEE FUNDS			
2090 Land Reclamation Fee Fund	\$120,779	\$116,951	\$132,321
1200 Agricultural Liming Material Fee Fund	\$15,101	\$49,766	\$45,200
Subtotal - Fee Funds	\$135,880	\$166,717	\$177,521
FEDERAL FUNDS			
3825 Federal Grant Funds	\$157,291	\$78,696	\$338,696
3705 EPA Indirect Funds	\$21,633	\$5,000	\$0
Subtotal - Federal Funds	\$178,924	\$83,696	\$338,696
OTHER FUNDS			
2517 Kansas Department of Health & Environment & Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism	\$145,304	\$804,696	\$475,000
TOTAL - BUDGET REQUEST	\$9,339,662	\$9,976,736	\$9,074,366

*Revenue figures as proposed to be "Adjusted" from the FY2016 / FY2017 budget adopted by the Kansas Legislature in the 2016 session.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 2017:

The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts unilaterally advocates the Kansas Legislature to fully fund the Aid to Conservation Districts program as per K.S.A. 2-1907c. The 2016 annual budgets submitted by each district contain county certification of the amount allocated to each county for calendar year 2016. These budgets serve as the basis for the Division of Conservation's FY 2017 State Aid to Conservation District request. The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts requests full funding of Aid to Conservation Districts in the amount of \$31,151,7 for FY 2017 to meet county conservation district budget needs.



2016 Legislative Session Priorities

Vision: The Kansas Department of Agriculture is committed to a balanced approach of:

- Serving Kansas farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and the consumers/customers they serve;
 - Providing an environment that enhances and encourages economic growth of the agriculture industry and the Kansas economy; and
 - Advocating for and promoting the agriculture industry, the state's largest industry, employer and economic contributor; while
 - Ensuring a safe food supply, protecting natural resources, promoting public health and safety, protecting animal health, and providing consumer protection to the best of our ability.
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Division of Animal Health

- **Animal Facilities Inspection Program**
 - The Animal Facility Inspection (AFI) program licenses and inspects dog and cat breeders that produce, offer or sell three or more litters during a fiscal year, including pounds and shelters, pet shops, research facilities, distributors, out-of-state distributors, boarding facilities and animal rescue facilities. The program also registers pet animal foster homes that serve to assist animal shelters and rescues.
 - The department seeks to make important updates to the AFI program, including reducing licensee categories, adding a Pet Animal Advisory Board position representing rescue networks, increasing fees to make the program self-sustaining, developing a risk-based inspection schedule and allowing mobile adoption events.
- **Brands Program**
 - Since 1939, animal brands have been and continue to be a visual means of livestock identification for ownership. The program maintains a registry of more than 17,000 brands and assists with the market brand inspection program. Though brand inspection is not mandatory in Kansas, the registration of a livestock brand in the program continues to play a special part in the livestock industry.
 - The Kansas Brands statute has been updated multiple times since 1939 to reflect the ever-changing needs of the livestock industry. KDA seeks to update the Kansas Brands statute to improve efficiencies in the program for livestock producers while also working to make the program fit the needs of today's livestock industry.
 - Specifically, Hamilton, Kearny, and Wichita counties fall under a County Brand Option, placing increased inspection requirements for livestock movement. Changes to reduce the inspection burden have been proposed through suggestions with stakeholders and county officials from these areas.
- **Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners**
 - In 2014, the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) merged with the Kansas Department of Agriculture to promote consistency and efficiency in policymaking and administration of the veterinary and animal health industries, while allowing the KBVE to continue to retain responsibility and authority in regulating the practice of veterinary medicine. KDA supports making the merger permanent.

Plant Protection and Weed Control

- **Noxious Weed Program**

- KDA has responsibility for administering the Kansas Noxious Weed Law, which requires every person, company, organization or agency to control, and eradicate those species declared by the legislature to be noxious. There are currently 12 weed species designated as a noxious weed in Kansas. In addition to displacing native species and interfering with production agriculture, noxious weeds can also increase erosion, destroy wildlife habitat and decrease property values.
- In an effort to address current challenges with administration of the Kansas Noxious Weed Law, KDA is seeking to remove the state noxious weed list from statute and place it into regulation, establish a State Noxious Weed Advisory Board to recommend changes to the noxious weed list by using a science-based risk assessment, streamline administration of the law, and remove outdated or unused provisions in the law.

Weights and Measures

- **Metrology Lab Fees**

- The Kansas Metrology Lab provides critical quality assurance testing of mass and volume standards to calibrate weighing and measuring devices for both internal and external customers. Currently, the lab charges a \$50 per hour fee, which only funds approximately 15 percent of the lab's operating costs
- The Weights and Measures Program is conducting outreach with lab customers to identify opportunities to amend the fee structure and, over time, increase the portion of the program that is funded by fees collected for use of the lab.

- **Scale Service Company Registration Fees**

- The Weights and Measures Program licenses service companies and their technicians to repair, install and certify commercial weighing and measuring devices in Kansas. Prior to 2010, registration fees were \$100 per company, but in 2010 the fee sunset back to a previous level of \$50 per company.
- In an effort to reduce SGF and PIFF resources necessary to manage service company registration, the Weights and Measures Program is considering increasing the registration fee back to \$100 per company. At this rate, fees collected by company's registering would cover the program's costs incurred from the registration process.

- **Continuing Education for Certified Scale Technicians**

- In order to earn a license from the State of Kansas to repair, install and certify commercial weighing and measuring devices, scale technicians are currently required to obtain 4 hours of continuing education and pass an exam annually for each category in which they are licensed.
- While maintaining a focus on training and education for certified technicians, the Weights and Measures program is conducting outreach with scale service companies to review potential changes to the required frequency of continuing education for certification purposes.

Division of Conservation

- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**

- The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Kansas is a federal – state partnership created for enhancing water conservation efforts along the Upper Arkansas River (UAR) corridor from Hamilton County to Rice County. The UAR CREP has been approved and operating since 2008.
- As of Sept. 30, 2013, a total of 15,765 acres have been enrolled in the UAR CREP and 31,965 acre-feet of annual authorized water right allocations have been retired.
- Each year, the KDA Division of Conservation submits language to the Kansas Legislature as a proviso to obtain authority to implement CREP. In order to provide certainty to this program that enhances water conservation in Kansas, the department seeks to obtain statutory authority to implement the program.

Ag Marketing Division

- Ag Marketing was originally created in the Board of Agriculture but was transferred to Commerce in 1995. In 2011, Governor Brownback transferred the program back into the Department of Agriculture. Since then, we have re-focused the program into four areas: Trademark (local markets), International, Business Development, Education and Advocacy.
- The Ag Marketing Division works to grow agriculture in Kansas, and in 2014 achieved successes including reaching more than 300 members from 70 counties in the *From the Land of Kansas* program, leading 7 outbound trade missions and hosting 6 inbound trade and buying missions, assisting more than 30 businesses, holding the first-ever Sunflower Supreme Heifer Sale in conjunction with K-State Research and Extension, and more.
- Under Executive Reorganization Order (ERO) 40, which moved the division into KDA, three FTEs and \$396,000 from EDIF was transferred. The 2012 legislature increased the agriculture marketing EDIF allocation by \$250,000. As the division has increased services to Kansas agriculture in the past five years, the division has grown to include 9 FTEs. In order to continue providing these services to Kansas agriculture in the future, KDA will be seeking \$350,000 in additional allocations starting in FY 2017.

FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 1:

**Adjusted Fiscal Year 2016 and Adjusted Fiscal Year 2017
Division of Conservation Budget**

WHEREAS, a need exists to improve and sustain the state's rivers, streams and aquifers with conservation grants; and

WHEREAS, the conservation provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) have increased the demand for conservation technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts have established a need for cost-share incentives to address local concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Conservation is responsible for carrying out programs of state assistance to conservation districts, watershed dam construction, water resources cost-share, riparian and wetland protection, multipurpose small lakes, non-point pollution control, water quality buffer initiative, conservation reserve enhancement \ water right transition assistance, water supply restoration, surface mining land reclamation and agricultural liming materials; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas State Water Plan has identified the priority watershed areas that need assistance to address non-point source pollution problems, reduce urban and rural flooding, and to reduce stream bank erosion and degradation of riparian areas; and

WHEREAS, financial and technical assistance needs have been identified in high priority Total Maximum Daily Load watersheds of the Kansas – Lower Republican, Lower Arkansas, Marais Des Cygnes, Missouri, Neosho, Upper Arkansas, Verdigris, Walnut, Smoky Hill / Saline, Upper Republican, Cimarron, and Solomon River Basins; and

WHEREAS, a need for priority multipurpose small lakes projects, watershed dam construction and rehabilitation, restoration of water supply systems, water quality buffer initiative, conservation reserve enhancement / water right transition assistance and riparian and wetland protection has been identified in the State Water Plan; then

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts supports the Division of Conservation's Adjusted FY 2016 and Adjusted FY 2017 budget request as described below, and in addition, supports the Division's request for appropriation language allowing the carryover of funds from the current fiscal year to FY 2017, as well as the supplemental budget request for FY2017 as described below:

KACD Support for Governor's Water Vision

WHEREAS, the Governors Water Vision has identified financial and technical assistance needs in high priority watersheds and;

WHEREAS, a need exists to improve and sustain the State's rivers, streams and aquifers with conservation grants; and

WHEREAS, the Governors Water Vision has identified the priority watershed areas that need assistance to address non-point source pollution problems, reduce urban and rural flooding, and to reduce stream bank erosion and degradation of riparian areas; and

WHEREAS, the Governors Water Vision has identified a need for a water management plan in forecasted water short areas that includes adopting water saving practices that improve the sustainability of the Ogallala Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts have established a need for cost-share incentives to address local concerns; and

WHEREAS, the conservation provisions of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) have increased the demand for conservation technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Governors Water Vision identified a need for priority multipurpose small lakes projects, watershed dam construction and rehabilitation, restoration of water supply systems and riparian and wetland protection; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts and watershed districts are responsible for carrying out conservation and watershed programs locally with local leadership;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts supports the Governors Water Vision, and in addition, supports the Vision utilizing the locally led structure of conservation and watershed districts in the implementation phases of the Vision.

**NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WICHITA, KANSAS
November 22, 2015**

OPERATIONS

- The following personnel changes have been made within the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) supervisory positions:
 - Monty R. Breneman was selected as the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs and began his duties October 18. Monty was the supervisory district conservationist for the Lincoln Management Unit.
 - Tracy W. Freeman, District Conservationist, Alma, will be the acting supervisory district conservationist for the Lincoln Management Unit from October 18 to December 12, 2015.
 - Cody A. Lunsford started his duties as area resource conservationist, Emporia Area Office, on October 4. Cody was the Supervisory District Conservationist for the Iola Management Unit.
 - James C. (Chad) Remley was selected as the regional director of the Northern Plains Soil Survey Regional Office (SSR5). The headquarters for the SSR5 was moved from Denver, Colorado, to Salina as it is more centrally located within the region. With Chad's move, the position of state soil scientist became open. Currently A. Tyler Labenz, Resource Soil Scientist, Hutchinson Area Office, is the acting state soil scientist.
- Darrell G. Beougher, District Conservationist, Dighton, retired October 3 after 35 years of service to the agency.
- Currently, NRCS is operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) through December 11, 2015. Based on preliminary estimates, it appears that the overall Kansas allocation for technical assistance funds will be similar to last year. However, there are a couple of concerns. Our Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) allocation is currently projected to be nearly a million dollars less than last year. Also, the amount of technical assistance dollars in the Conservation Stewardship Program is significantly more than we used last year. Therefore, if we do not have the workload in that program to use all of those dollars, we will have to return the extra amount.

PROGRAMS

Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)

By December 31, 2015, we will have 259 of the 2016 CStP renewal contracts obligated on 612,000 acres for a total of \$6.2 million.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP program general signup is occurring this winter. CRP grasslands, new to CRP, is on-going.

Easement Programs

- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE) .**
 - o Closing on fiscal year (FY) 2014 ACEP-WRE emollments continues. Five easements have been recorded at local courthouses. Four FY2015 WRE applications, total of 373 acres, were approved for emollment. ACEP-WRE wetland restoration has started on one of the 2014 emollments.
 - o ACEP-ALE FY2015-two Cooperative Agreements with land trusts have been approved on 2 parcels totaling 2,605 acres.
 - o ACEP-ALE FY2014--three parcels are currently being worked on so easement recording can be completed prior to March 31, 2016.
- **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**

Restoration work is being completed on 11 WRP easements that will restore 550 acres of wetlands.
- **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)**

Twelve parcels are being processed for closing. Once these easements are recorded, all FRPP easements will be acquired by the land trusts.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

NRCS worked with the city of Sedgwick to evaluate a non-exigency EWP project involving streambank stabilization and debris removal due to flash flooding along Sand Creek in May and June. The eligible project has been submitted to National Headquarters and placed on the EWP Waitlist for future funding consideration.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- Kansas has received a tentative FY2016 EQIP allocation of \$18,961,951. This allocation is \$1.7 million less than last year.
- The ranking cutoff for FY16 general EQIP application was November 20, 2015. Policies regarding implementation of the FY16 general EQIP is tentatively scheduled for roll out in February 2016.
- FY16 EQIP Initiative cutoffs will be announced soon. It is expected that policies regarding implementation of EQIP Initiatives will also roll out in February 2016
 - o Kansas will again offer the following National Initiatives:
 - National On-Farm Energy Initiative
 - National Organic Initiative
 - National Seasonal High Tunnel
 - o Kansas will also offer the following Landscape Initiatives:
 - National Water Quality Initiative
 - Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative
 - Ogallala Aquifer Initiative

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- FY 2015 Approved Projects
 - o Kansas program policy has been finalized for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) Pheasant Initiative project, the Groundwater Management District (GMD) Advanced Irrigation Water Management project, and the Kansas Forest

- Service (KFS) Water Quality through Forest Practices project. Project announcement to the public and agency/partner Program Rollout training will happen in January 2016.
- o Program policies are still being developed for the Kansas portion of the Grassland Birds and Grazing Land Enhancement project and the Kansas portion of the Middle and Lower Neosho Water Quality project. These projects were approved under the national ranking pool with Missouri NRCS the lead for the Grassland Birds project and Oklahoma NRCS the lead for the Neosho Water Quality project. It is expected these two projects will also be publically announced in January, with agency/partner Program Rollout training soon after.
 - FY 2016 Project Proposals
 - o The Nature Conservancy submitted a preproposal involving grasslands in Kansas and Oklahoma with Kansas the lead state for program administration. This proposal intends to use ACEP and EQIP funding streams with the bigger portion for ACEP. Resource concerns to be addressed include upland bird habitat fragmentation, conversions to other uses than grasslands, adverse fire and grazing regimes, and invasive species (cedars and sericea lespedeza).
 - o This proposal has been selected to submit a final proposal for funding consideration. An agreement will be negotiated with The Nature Conservancy once the final proposal has been accepted.

Watershed Rehabilitation Program Activities

- The NRCS Engineering and Water Resources Staffs reviewed the Whitewater River Watershed Site No. 19 Dam Assessment with the watershed district board at their September meeting. The Dam Assessment is the first to be completed in Kansas since 2010 at the request of the watershed district. Funding assistance for dam assessments of federally constructed dams is available through the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.
- Rehabilitation planning for five watershed dams in Butler County continues to progress well with several public meetings being conducted to bring the public up-to-speed and gain input on the project planning.
- NRCS is preparing for FY16 Watershed Rehabilitation Program funding assistance. Plans are to submit a request for at least 20 additional dam assessments as well as Design Phase funds for those dams presently involved with Planning Phase.
- NRCS field office staff are currently working with local watershed districts to complete Annual Dam Safety Inspections on federally assisted structures. To date, approx. 46 percent of the required inspections have been completed and submitted to the state office for review, filing, and updating of the National Inventory of Dams database. The remaining 2015 inspections should be completed by Dec. 31, 2015.

TECHNOLOGY

Engineering

- The State Conservation Engineer (Curtis Janssen), Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources (Bruce Wells), Assistant State Conservationist for Programs (Monty Breneman) and Resource Conservationist for Programs (Joel Willhoft) met with representatives from the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) Division of Conservation, the State Association of Kansas Watersheds, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Kansas